

privilege, read from a newspaper article a statement which in reference to him said: "The C.I.O. requires no defense against a Congressman who would cover up for a gang of conspirators against our Nation." On hearing the objectionable words, the Speaker⁽²⁰⁾ recognized the Member on a question of personal privilege.

§ 31.17 A pamphlet identifying a Member and his committee as "the secret weapon with which Adolf Hitler hopes to soften up our Nation" gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On Feb. 1, 1943,⁽¹⁾ Mr. Martin Dies, Jr., of Texas, presented as involving a question of personal privilege a pamphlet which described the Member and his committee as "the secret weapon with which Adolf Hitler hopes to soften up our Nation for military conquest." Upon his presentation of the objectionable material, the Member was recognized by the Speaker⁽²⁾ for one hour.

§ 31.18 A newspaper editorial referring to a Member as one who cooperated with the

20. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

1. 89 CONG. REC. 474, 78th Cong. 1st Sess.

2. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

Nazi propaganda ring was held to give rise to a question of personal privilege.

On Mar. 2, 1943,⁽³⁾ Mr. Clare E. Hoffman, of Michigan, rising to a question of personal privilege, read from a newspaper editorial the following statement:

Representative Clare Hoffman, of Michigan . . . who cooperated with the Nazi propaganda ring before Pearl Harbor, wants to investigate us.

In his ruling granting recognition to the Member, the Speaker⁽⁴⁾ declared, "The Chair thinks the gentleman states a point of personal privilege and he may proceed."

§ 32. Published Charges Impugning Veracity

Presenting Falsehoods

§ 32.1 A newspaper editorial charging a Member with falsehoods gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On Feb. 28, 1956,⁽⁵⁾ Mr. Craig Hosmer, of California, claiming the floor on a question of personal

3. 89 CONG. REC. 1490, 78th Cong. 1st Sess.

4. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

5. 102 CONG. REC. 3477, 84th Cong. 2d Sess.

privilege, read from a newspaper editorial charging him with falsehoods during House consideration of a certain bill. Following the submission of the editorial to the Chair, the Speaker pro tempore⁽⁶⁾ stated:

The Chair thinks the gentleman raises a question of personal privilege. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Stating Lies

§ 32.2 A newspaper article in which a statement of a Member was characterized as “an outright lie,” gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On Mar. 11, 1957,⁽⁷⁾ Mr. Frank T. Bow, of Ohio, submitted as involving a question of personal privilege a newspaper article in which a statement he had made was characterized as “an outright lie.” The Speaker⁽⁸⁾ said:

In the opinion of the Chair the gentleman has stated a question of personal privilege.

The gentleman is recognized.

6. John W. McCormack (Mass.).

7. 103 CONG. REC. 3395, 85th Cong. 1st Sess.

8. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

§ 33. Criticism of Members Collectively

Criticism of Unnamed Members

§ 33.1 A statement in a radio address by a cabinet officer that persons advocating a certain measure were deliberately misleading the public was held not to give grounds for a question of personal privilege to a Member who had advocated the measure, but who had not been named in the address.

On Apr. 17, 1935,⁽⁹⁾ Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, of Massachusetts, as an advocate of the repeal of a certain textile processing tax, presented as involving a question of personal privilege the statement made during a radio address by a cabinet officer that persons advocating the repeal of the tax were deliberately misleading the public. A point of order was made by Mr. Hampton P. Fulmer, of South Carolina, that she had not stated a question of personal privilege. In his ruling sustaining the point of order, the Speaker⁽¹⁰⁾ stated:⁽¹¹⁾

9. 79 CONG. REC. 5854, 5855, 74th Cong. 1st Sess.

10. Joseph W. Byrns (Tenn.).

11. 79 CONG. REC. 5855, 74th Cong. 1st Sess.